

## Letter from Mabel Hubbard Bell to Alexander Graham Bell, May 25, 1893, with transcript

Letter from Mrs. Alexander Graham Bell to Dr. Alexander Graham Bell. 1331 Connecticut Avenue. May 25th 1893. My dear Alec:

Well, I have seen the Princess, and I think she is about the size of what a Princess should be. I would give something to know what she thinks of us all. Meantime she is all she should be. I wasn't so wildly enthusiastic at first, she stood there on the dias with her husband and talked to him and looked rather uninterested not to say bored, but I suppose she was very tired. While Papa and I were waiting our turn we saw Lady Pauncefote step up on the platform and try to persuade her to sit down, but she would not do it for some time longer. Papa kissed her hand and I shook it which was all she expected. I wonder which she preferred, the democratic handshake so foreign to her breeding, or the deep curtesy ventured on by some of the ladies, and so foreign to our breeding. Well, when she had had supper in a private room she came back and made the circuit of the ball room, and it was then that she fascinated me. She was so bright and animated and so friendly. Whenever there was a face she recognized she made a little dart for it and spoke so eagerly and brightly it was very pretty to see. She might have been a happy young bride recognizing her friends in the crowd and stopping to speak to them, there was not the least appearance of self-consciousness and intentional condescension. Then when she went down the steps on Sir Julian's arm she looked back over her shoulder talking and laughing to some one standing in the hall, it 2 was very charming. Don Antonio is by no means so prepossessing, his hair was shaven as close as a Sing Sing convicts, and he is dark and heavy looking in contrast to her yellow hair and fair complexion.

I had a new dress, I am not sure whether you would have liked it, but anyway it was fresh and clean. I had quite an audience to see it. Mamma and Grace drove in with Papa and

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Charlie, and the children brought Mrs. Kennan in from a drive. The papers said that the Princesses emeralds were two inches in diameter! I thought they were big enough, but not quite as bad as that. Does all this Court Chronicle bore you? Well I have nothing else to write about. Going to the dentist, the tailor and house cleaning is not very interesting either. Daisy is so funny, she would not allow me to go to the dentist with her and she is so far from strong that she broke down in the middle from sheer nervousness, there was no pain. It is a lovely cool day today.

Yours ever, Mabel.